

**Written testimony submitted March 17, 2010**

**Government Administration and Election Committee**

**In opposition to SB 424**

**To the Government Administration and Elections Committee:**

Just what overworked legislators need is the creation of a new steering committee to make recommendations for the creation of a new agency. I am referring to the proposal, S. B. No. 424, to establish a steering committee to make recommendations for legislative action for the gradual merging of the Department of Public Health, Developmental Services, Children and Families, Mental Health and Addictions Services, and the Department of Social Services into a new Department of Human Services. There is no need to entertain the idea of a new department. This kind of consolidation has already been tried without success in other state agencies. Specifically I refer to the consolidation of community colleges and technical colleges. The community colleges merged with the technical colleges and a technical college education is not available in Connecticut anymore. The technical college students had to study subjects such as calculus and physics and for the most part left college after two years at state tuition prices with educations that provided them with opportunities for good paying jobs in the technical field or admittance to good engineering colleges. No more. Such a huge department would probably result in less services for the consumer, larger caseloads of case managers who already have large client caseloads, and the reasonable possibility of eligible clients "falling through the cracks." Such a merger would not save money and would be an administrative nightmare. The people who currently run and work in those

agencies have highly specialized educations, experience, and a vocation to the targeted populations that they serve. The day of the generalist has long passed. Let me give some small examples of the ensuing chaos. To create a new computer system that would serve the new agency would be enormously expensive. Personnel would be displaced or replaced that would result in a loss of employment and less revenues for the state. New buildings would have to be built. Property would have to be purchased Even the stationery would have to be replaced and that is only the beginning. My name is Denise M. Ivain and I live in Torrington, Connecticut and that is my view. Thank you for your time and attention.